

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid having at least 80% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57);

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507;

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~ the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56);

~~(f)~~(e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56); or

~~(g)~~(f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948; and

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

23. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least 85% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57);

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507;

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~—the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56);

~~(f)(e)~~ the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56); or

~~(g)(f)~~ the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948; and

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

24. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least 90% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57);

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507;

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~—the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56);

~~(f)(e)~~ the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56); or

~~(g)(f)~~ the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948; and

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

25. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least 95% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57);

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507;

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56);~~

~~(f)(e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56); or~~

~~(g)(f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948; and~~

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

26. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57);

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507;

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56);~~

~~(f)(e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56); or~~

~~(g)(f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948; and~~

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation.

27. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57);

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507;

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~ the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56);

~~(f)~~(e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56); or

~~(g)~~(f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948.

28. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57).

29. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide.

30. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56).

33. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56).

34. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948.

35. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57);

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 293-507;

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 26 (SEQ ID NO:57), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~ the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56);

~~(f)~~(e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of shown in Figure 25 (SEQ ID NO:56); or

~~(g)~~(f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203948;

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation; and

wherein said stringent conditions comprise 50% formamide, 5 x SSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5 x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50 µg/ml), 0.1% SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C, with washes at 42°C in 0.2 x SSC (sodium chloride/sodium citrate) and 50% formamide at 55°C, followed by a high-stringency wash consisting of 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55°C.

36-37 (Cancelled).

38. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 22.

39. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 38, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

40. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 38.

41. (Currently amended) The isolated host cell of Claim 40, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.